

Pinus ponderosa – (*Populus tremuloides*) / *Fallugia paradoxa* – (*Holodiscus dumosus*) Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Ponderosa pine – (Quaking Aspen) / Apache Plume – (Ocean Spray Scree) Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation (VII.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Boulder, gravel, cobble, or talus sparse vegetation (VII.B.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated rock flats (VII.B.2.)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural Sparsely vegetated rock flats (VII.B.2.N.)
FORMATION	Boulder fields (VII.B.2.N.a)
ALLIANCE	AA Lava Bed Sparsely Vegetated Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL Weak

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Ponderosa pine – (Quaking Aspen) / Apache Plume – (Ocean Spray Scree) Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation occurs as islands of vegetation within the fractured black lava flow surface and at the edges of lava flow. This association is found within Sunset Crater Volcano NM on the jumbled and jagged aa lava beds mainly in the western portion of the park. In the project environs this association is also found on the lava beds that extend adjacent to the western park boundary and in a small section south of the park boundary.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Ponderosa pine – (Quaking Aspen) / Apache Plume – (Ocean Spray Scree) Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation's elevation is fairly constant and ranges from 2,100-2,130m (average 2,115m). The slope ranges from 0-15% slope (average 3%). The substrate consists of large soil pockets within aa lava and at the edge of the lava beds.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Tree canopy	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> , <i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Shrub	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> , <i>Holodiscus dumosus</i>

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Bouteloua gracilis, *Ericameria nauseosa*, *Pericome caudata*, *Muhlenbergia montana*, *Ribes cereum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Ponderosa pine – (Quaking Aspen) / Apache Plume – (Ocean Spray Scree) Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation relevés had total vegetation cover ranging from 5-45% cover (average 18%) cover. Within the tree layer absolute cover ranged from sparse to abundant (0-30%, average 18%). Cover within the shrub layer was consistent and ranged from 4-6% (average 5%). Cover of the herbaceous layer was sparse and ranged from 1-5% (average 2%). Species richness ranged from 4-22 (average 12 species) within the five relevés sampled.

The tree layer consists of scattered individuals of *Pinus ponderosa* (average cover 7%) and *Populus tremuloides* (average cover 4%). The shrub layer consists of mainly *Fallugia paradoxa* (average cover 3%) and *Holodiscus dumosus* (average cover 1%). The herbaceous layer is sparse.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

DATABASE CODE CEGLO02929

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

MAP CLASSES

The association Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation is mapped as Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation (Map Code 6). This association is mapped as small inclusions of vegetation within the lava beds of Sunset Crater Volcano NM and in a small area of the project environs. The total area of Lava Bed Sparse Vegetation mapped in Sunset Crater Volcano NM is 79 hectares within 50 polygons and in the park environs is 5 hectares within 8 polygons.